

KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT
on the
Health of the Area
for the Year 1968

Presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and
Public Health Inspector

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

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Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health
and Highways Committee

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1968

P R E F A C E

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the district during 1968, drawn up along the lines of Ministry of Health Circular 1/69 dated January 1969. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

The Registrar General estimated the population to be 3,340 persons, an increase of 20 over the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate at 12.6 per 1,000 population is below the National Average of 16.9. Likewise the Standardised Death Rate at 10.7 is below the National Average of 11.9. There were no infant deaths. Cancer was responsible for 17% of deaths, diseases of the heart and circulation for 53% of deaths and disease of the ~~heart~~ ^{Chest} and lungs for 19% of deaths.

No major public health problems arose during the year.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN

July 1969

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1968

Table 1

Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets

POPULATION :

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Urban District

3,340 (3,320)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	-5	(-16)
Migration in or out	...	...	+25	(+16)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	+20	(Nil)
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	3,287

GENERAL STATISTICS :

Area of Kingsbridge Urban District in Acres

1,148

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books

1,313 (1,154)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	1.144	(1.005)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	2.909	(2.892)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.543	(2.877)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	...	369

Rateable Value of District at 1st April

£139,908 (£134,446)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£565 (£545)

Table 2**Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets****BIRTHS :****Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population** 12.6 (11.9)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.17 (1.17)

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	26	10	36
Legitimate	25	10	35
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Number of Still Births	1	0	1

DEATHS :**Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population** 10.7 (13.4)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 0.87 (0.89)

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Ages—Total	22	19	41
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	0.00	(29.4)	

Comparisons with Rates for England and Wales**Birth Rate** 16.9 (17.2) **Death Rate** 11.9 (11.2)**Infantile Mortality Rate** 18.0 (18.3)

(Infants under 1 year of age)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1968

	M.	F.	Total
B6 Other Tuberculosis, including late effects ...	1	0	1
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm — Stomach ...	1	1	2
B19(5) Leukaemia ...	1	0	1
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ...	2	1	3
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	0	1	1
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	2	0	2
B27 Hypertensive Disease ...	0	1	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	4	5	9
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	0	4	4
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease ...	5	2	7
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	0	1	1
B31 Influenza ...	2	1	3
B32 Pneumonia ...	1	1	2
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	1	0	1
B33(2) Asthma ...	1	0	1
B46(6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1	1
BE48 All Other Accidents ...	1	0	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	22	19	41

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Table 1

Disease	Total	Age group in years					Over 65
		Under 1	1- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 65	
Whooping Cough	3	0	1	2	0	0	0

Table 2

Disease	Total	Incidence by Quarters			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Whooping Cough	3	3	0	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under the National Assistance Acts of 1948 and 1951 for the removal of persons in need of care and attention and no persons were buried in accordance with Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals.

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated at Kingsbridge. Other hospitals which serve the district are at Plymouth and Totnes.

2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services :—

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, Supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home-help services and the after-care of such persons.

Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer at Exeter.

3. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Psychiatric Social Worker, Mr. R. V. Townsend, Fore Street Clinic, Kingsbridge. Telephone 2178.

4. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

5. Medical and Dental Services.

There are four general medical practitioners and three dentists in the town.

6. Mass Miniature Radiography.

A Mass X-Ray Unit visits the town regularly once a fortnight and members of the public are encouraged to attend for a chest X-ray.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water Supply.

The water supply for the area was of its usual highly satisfactory nature, both in quantity and quality, during 1968.

No action was needed for any form of contamination ; fluoride was not added.

So far as is known, no houses in the district are supplied by standpipe, other than those where such a pipe is provided for garden and other purposes in addition to the normal supply inside the house.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new sewers were constructed in 1968, apart from a small length of private development.

The progress on the construction of a new disposal works together with a new trunk main was not as quick as had been hoped.

However, the preliminary design was decided upon and at the end of the year decisions by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the County Council were awaited.

Housing.

No new council houses were constructed during the year. Approval was received for the building of a further two houses to fill a gap in the Rack Park Estate, and proposals were in hand for a further block of twelve old persons flats.

Applications for standard and improvement grants continued to dribble in ; none were refused. Generally these result in very good works of improvement.

FOOD

The situation regarding the supply, control and sampling of food remains as in previous years.

The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows : Greengrocer 5 ; Grocer 13 ; Butcher 5 ; Restaurants 5 ; Wet Fish Shops 2 ; Fried Fish Shops 2 ; Bakers 5 (only 2 actually bake).

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

There are no poultry processing premises in the area.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1966, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	1
Storage of Ice Cream for sale	...	...	...	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.	...			7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	...	...	...	3

The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 21. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary.

The general standard of food premises in the town remains good.

The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilisers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	258	—	4	911	—	—
Number inspected	255	—	4	911	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1		—	2		
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	84			75		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	32.9%			8.5%		
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticercosis :			Nil			

It will be seen by comparison with previous years that the level of condemnation varies but little. This might well be taken to indicate a high quality of carcase presented for examination ; it might equally well be regarded as indicating little progress in the fight against liver fluke infestation.

NUISANCES, etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) alleging house defects	...	...	...	...	...	227
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	142
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	...	2
Informal letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	...	...	...	...	...	47
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	83

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect'ns	Number of Written Notices	Occup'rs Prosec'd
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	2	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	52	5	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found : Nil.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no outworkers.

